



Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District
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ANTELOPE VALLEY EARNS CLEAN CITIES DESIGNATION

Lancaster - The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has approved the Antelope Valley Air Pollution Control District's (AVAPCD's) application to expand the area's Clean Cities Coalition to encompass the entire Antelope Valley, and endorsed its five-year plan for expanding the region's alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) market, officials at the local air agency have announced.

Originally conceived in 1995 as the Lancaster Clean Cities Coalition, the re-designated Antelope Valley Clean Cities Coalition now represents the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale, as well as unincorporated regions of Los Angeles County within the Antelope Valley. The local coalition boasts more than 50 stakeholders, including the two cities within its boundaries, L.A. County, local utility companies, numerous local businesses, and the AVAPCD.

The Antelope Valley Clean Cities Coalition is one of 79 coalitions nationwide which have voluntarily joined to support the DOE's Clean Cities Program, a locally based government/industry partnership which aims to expand the use of alternatives to gasoline and diesel fuel. To this end, Clean Cities Coalitions throughout the country work actively to increase the number of AFVs and refueling stations in their respective regions, educate the public and advance legislation and incentives which promote AFVs.

With the support of the City of Lancaster, the DOE asked the AVAPCD to assume leadership of the local Clean Cities Program in 2000. As lead agency, the AVAPCD was required to coordinate the renewal process for the existing Clean Cities designation, which was set to expire by the end of 2000. To this end, the AVAPCD contracted with Thomason and Associates - a Las Vegas- based consultant that recently completed the City of Las Vegas' Clean Cities redesignation plan - to develop a five-year program plan for expanding AFV usage in the Antelope Valley. Soon after, the AVAPCD began holding stakeholder meetings for the purpose of gauging ongoing interest in AFVs, recruiting additional stakeholders and soliciting input to the program plan.

The plan - which was approved by the DOE January 19 - is the mechanism by which individual stakeholders formalize their commitment to transitioning to alternative fuels. Goals identified as

part of the Antelope Valley's plan include increasing the number of natural gas, propane and electric charging stations in the region; increasing the number of stakeholders from private fleets to 30%; and exploring funding sources for Clean Cities activities.

According to AVAPCD Chairman and City of Lancaster Mayor Frank Roberts, the Antelope Valley's redesignation as a Clean City region is an incentive to businesses considering relocation to the Antelope Valley. "Being recognized for the quality of our air gives us an edge in attracting businesses," commented Roberts. "The designation carries positive economic and redevelopment implications." Roberts added that he is proud that the Clean Cities designation - which "was unique to the City of Lancaster - now extends over the entire region."

The next meeting of the Antelope Valley Clean Cities Coalition is scheduled for March 15 at 1:30PM at AVAPCD headquarters, which are located at 43301 Division Street, Suite 206, Lancaster. For more information, call (661) 723-8070.